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A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

MANUFACTURERS OF

AERATED WATERS.

AERATED WATERS of our manufacture are sold throughout the Far East and are invariably preferred on account of their excellence.

ABSOLUTE PURITY is guaranteed. The best materials only are used.

THE PRICES are only half those charged in England.

WATERS MANUFACTURED BY US are acknowledged by the leading English makers to be equal to those of their own production.

Sir Edward Frankland, K.C.B., F.R.S., F.C.S., &c. the greatest living authority on Water, reports as follows on the water so prepared and used by us in our manufacture:—

"It possesses an extremely high degree of organic purity and is of most excellent quality for drinking."

A. S. WATSON & CO. LIMITED.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 14th June, 1909.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Only communications relating to business should be addressed to THE EDITOR. Correspondence must be written in English and addressed to the Editor, not to the publisher. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only. No responsibility is assumed for the return of unsolicited material. No correspondence is accepted unless accompanied by a return address. The Editor is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JUNE 17th, 1909.

Mr. H. W. BRAY is a gentleman who has espoused the cause of the Philippine Insurgents and who may be regarded as an accredited representative of the party. It was he who introduced AMERICAN to the United States Consul at Singapore and he assisted in the preliminary negotiations leading up to the agreement with Admiral Dewey. Under these circumstances an importance attaches to what he has to say on the future of the Philippines beyond that of a mere individual expression of opinion. Mr. BRAY has recently contributed a signed article to the *Singapore Free Press*, in reply to one that appeared in the *Spectator* and which was reproduced by our Straits contemporary. The view expressed by him is much the same as that which has been previously expressed in this column, but with this difference, that whereas we suggested self-government for the Philippines under a joint protectorate, Mr. BRAY suggests an American protectorate exclusively. "The only possible solution of the Philippine question," he says, "is an independent government, under American protection, and this is the policy I recommended General Aguinaldo and his co-partisans to accept, and which will no doubt be carried out. Time will show."

Mr. BRAY speaks, however, with the exaggeration of an enthusiast. When he says that Spain, with an army of 50,000 men fully armed, has been able to do nothing against an army of imperfectly organized Filipinos who have never disposed of more than six hundred rifles he conveys an entirely mistaken impression. Spain conquered the province of Cavite from the insurgents and had driven ANTONALDO from its mountain fastnesses, from which they might have continued to give trouble, it is true, but they were not in possession of any extent of settled country. It was deemed expedient by the Spanish Government, however, to bring the disturbance to an end by granting certain reforms and making pecuniary provision for the insurgent leaders. Practically the rebellion was suppressed when the outbreak of hostilities between Spain and America put new hope into the hearts of the natives and they brought their material resistance to the shape of facilities for obtaining arms. Now long Spain might have been able to keep the islands had there been no interference from outside it is impossible to say; probably she would have been driven out sooner or later; but in April last the natives seemed as far as ever from having achieved their independence.

It seems unnecessary to speculate on the forces that any other Power would require in order to subdue the Philippines after Spain has been dispossessed, for no Power will wish to make the attempt. Possibly there may be

demands for calling stations, there being already rumours, according to Reuters, of German designs on the Sulu group, but the Philippines as a whole will no doubt be allowed to govern themselves, subject to an American or joint protectorate, or at least they will be given a chance to show whether they are ripe for self-government. If the people are as enlightened as Mr. BRAY claims, the experiment will no doubt turn out a success, but if it fails America will have to determine whether she will govern the islands as a subject territory herself or hand them over to some other Power or Powers. The recognition of the independence of the islands if it be found possible, will be the satisfactory solution of a problem which would otherwise prove a very knotty one. In the meantime it is not likely that America will submit to be robbed of her spoils of victory, whether by many or any other Power. When it is asked she may invite a council of the Powers more immediately interested in the future of the Philippines for the amicable adjustment of any claims that may be advanced, but any interference by a third Power at the present time would be calculated to lead to serious complications.

There was one case of plague yesterday and one death.

The silk ship C. P. *Restaurante Empress* of the line was delivered in New York on 15th inst.

H.M.S. *Waterwitch*, which was chartered by the Admiralty for the purpose of conveying the Hon. Mr. J. B. Morrison, Secretary of the Admiralty, to the Philippines, arrived at Hongkong on 14th inst. The ship was chartered by the Admiralty for the purpose of conveying the Hon. Mr. J. B. Morrison, Secretary of the Admiralty, to the Philippines, arrived at Hongkong on 14th inst. The ship was chartered by the Admiralty for the purpose of conveying the Hon. Mr. J. B. Morrison, Secretary of the Admiralty, to the Philippines, arrived at Hongkong on 14th inst.

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CHINESE OFFICIAL MOVEMENTS.

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